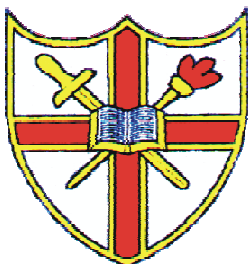


Sounding the Trumpet

Autumn 2013



F.E.M.



This is a homiletical magazine designed to encourage and assist all who are engaged in the preaching of the pure Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

One of the aims of FEM (as it is affectionately known by its members) is to give preachers instruction in preparation, format and delivery of the message of Saving Grace both inside and outside of church buildings. We trust that this magazine will be both a blessing and assistance to all who proclaim the Good News of sins forgiven and the hope of eternal life through saving faith in the Son of God.

Sounding the Trumpet is published four times a year. If you would like to subscribe please contact the address below or go to www.femonline.co.uk for a form.

Articles included in this magazine are chosen for their homiletical content and not for a person's theological persuasion. As the Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries is a conservative evangelical body, no articles by those of a liberal position will knowingly be included in this journal.

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God is Great!

by Gary J. Hall

"Great is the LORD" (Psalm 48:1).

The main text for this study is contained in Isaiah 40:12-31 where the prophet reveals that God is great. There are many who see themselves as the greatest, but end up as nothing. The religions of the world think that their gods are great, yet in reality they are simply the imagination of people's void of understanding. Nobody and nothing is greater than the Lord our God. Such a truth needs to be broadcasted from the mountaintops.

God is greater than creation

"Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him? With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and showed to him the way of understanding?" (Isaiah 40:12-14).

The Lord has measured the oceans of the world in the palm of His hand, all we could achieve is to hold a pitiful amount in ours and watch it run away. He knows the exact length, breath and height of the universe, something that astronomers only wish they could know. The vastness of space is tiny in the

eyes of God. He knows the amount of dust on earth, the weight of every mountain and hill. Can you hear Him telling us that He is great?

God is greater than the nations

"Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing. And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering. All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity" (Isaiah 40:15-17).

Our nation calls itself Great. The USA declares itself to be the greatest nation on earth. How does God view the nations of the world? He sees them as the a drip left after the bucket has been emptied or as a minute grain of dust left on a scale. In reality the nations of the world are absolutely nothing compared with the greatness of God. Think about it, if we could gather every beast as a sacrifice to burn on every cedar tree cut from Lebanon to praise God, He would see it as an insult to His greatness. So what can we possibly give as an offering to Him?

God is greater than the gods of the world

"To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him? The workman melteth a graven

image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains. He that is so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree that will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, that shall not be moved" (Isaiah 40:18-20).

The Muslims cry that their god is great. Idolaters of one kind or another think that their images are great. The Lord God of the Bible is the only one who is great and worthy of praise. Our God is all powerful and almighty, the deities of the heathen are "dumb idols" (1 Corinthians 12:2). Should we be fearful of these gods since they cannot even begin to be compared with to the Lord? Those who use imagery to depict Christ are actually insulting Him rather than declaring His greatness. Our Saviour is "the Great Shepherd" (Hebrews 13:20) as well as "the Great God" (Titus 2:13).

God is greater than world rulers

"Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in: That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity. Yea, they shall not be planted; yea, they shall not be sown: yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth: and he shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble" (Isaiah 40:21-24).

History is full of kings who called themselves great, such as Alexander the Great and Peter the Great, but where are they now? From the great leaders of the ancient Middle East to the monarchs of

the West, each one is only a sentence in a history book. Their wealth and power is gone forever. Their pride is lost in the dust of the earth. The great God, who sits as Judge over the leaders of the world, blew them away like stubble. The same will be true of all kings, prime ministers and presidents who pass laws that offend the Holy God of Heaven. Our national leaders think they are clever, but they forget that God sees everything they do and hears all they say. One day He will act against them as He has done with others in the past.

God is greater than the stars in the heavens

"Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth" (Isaiah 40:26).

All the visible stars have been named by man, but God gave each a name when He created them. It is estimated that there are 100 million galaxies each containing 5 billion stars, and the Lord God knows the name of them all. What a vast universe! It was created by a Great God!

God is greater than our weaknesses

"Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the LORD, and my judgment is passed over from my God? Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young

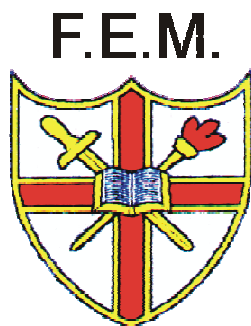
men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isaiah 40:27-31).

Now do we see why God has declared His greatness in these verses? He knows all about us. He is the answer to our weakness and weariness. How often we think that God has forgotten us when life goes wrong and things become desperate, but He is never indifferent to our plight and afflictions. Christ has promised to give His power to those who are weak. "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I

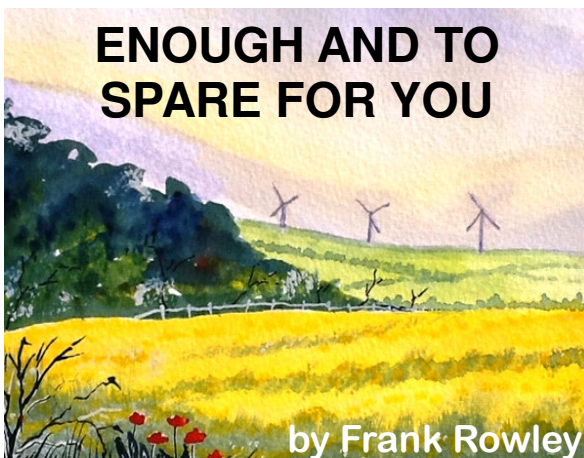
rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (2 Corinthians 12:9). This great God give us His strength to to mount up over all our troubles, to run as a mighty army of faith, and walk worthy of Him in this world. Those who do not know Him have no such ability. If the great God can create the universe in six days, can He not renew and revive us by His power? Imagine, the power that created all things has been given to us to overcome our weaknesses and weariness!

The point of this passage of Scripture is found in its last few verses. God is great and above all things. He sits highly exalted over all creation. He has promised to give us His strength to soar on high with Him. How great is that!

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The Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries is a conservative, evangelical body that adheres strictly to the fundamentals of the Christian faith. Founded in 1896 in Cross Street Baptist Church, London, where eleven men met for prayer and formed the Evangelical Preachers Association. A new constitution was drawn up in 1980 under the present name. FEM proclaims the historical and Biblical Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and endeavours to be obedient to the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20. If you are an evangelist, pastor, missionary or other Christian worker, we would be honoured to welcome you into our membership. Membership to FEM is open to all truly born again believers .



"And when she (Ruth) was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not: And let fall also some of the *handfuls of purpose for her, and leave them, that she may glean them, and rebuke her not.* So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley" (Ruth 2:15-17)

My watercolour painting of a harvest

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field shows a modern setting, including a wind farm; technology towers over nature's palette of glorious edible colour.

Our past may hold shadows of sadness

Times had been really difficult for Ruth but the loss she experienced was to change her quietly and dramatically. The weather was sunny and the sheaves were standing high and dry. The fields were ablaze with golden glory. Harvest was a time of smiles and happiness for all concerned. Ruth bent down to the ground but her heart was singing with heavenly music. The Lord was helping her in a personal way. The Lord of the collective harvest is also the Lord of the concerned heart. The Lord has always cared for those in personal need. His love is gentle, and Ruth discovered it was stronger than death. Christian believers have experienced this to be so too. It is our common experience. The Lord of heaven is continually dealing with real ordinary people in a real world. For Ruth the answer to her need was on the ground beneath her feet, and it was there for the taking! The corner of the field was to conquer her concern and reward her faith and trust in the Lord.

Delightful law of the land

Boaz had adhered and followed the delightful built-in law of the land of Israel from Leviticus 19:9, "And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corner of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest."

Built-in provision

This situation provided food from the fields for those people in real need. Ruth was well qualified, was seeking help, and was to find there was enough and to spare. The Lord had set up the

provision to meet the problem. He is always one step ahead of us so nothing takes Him by surprise. He is the Almighty and He is totally aware of our situation. He fills the courts of heaven, yet He works in the corners of the fields of our lives.

Scope of Scripture

"But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth" (Psalm 86:15). Let Israel hope in the Lord: for with the Lord there is mercy, and in him is plenteous redemption" (Psalm 130:7). "For thou, Lord art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee (Psalm 86:5).

Plenteous Provisions

So Scripture assures the believer that the Lord of our redemption is at the same time the Lord of "readiness" to meet our need with His plenteous provision. Certainly, there is enough and to spare for those people who trust and obey. Let us remember again the truth found in Deuteronomy 30:9, "And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers." Plenteous provision for you!

Jesus walked his disciples in the fields

He is still walking and working in the Gospel fields today. "Then saith He unto His disciples, the harvest truly is plenteous but the labourers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth labourers into His harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38). Jesus gave a word of direction to those who seek to love and serve Him in work

and witness and every level of ministry. "Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest. Behold I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35).

Severity of Scripture

The Bible speaks with a firm voice to those who reject the saving Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Fair warning is given to all such. "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." This echoes the straightforward statement of Jeremiah 8:20. If Jeremiah makes one think on these things, John writing in the Book of Revelation makes an even more thought-provoking statement of eternal truth and reality. "And another angel came out of the temple, crying with aloud voice to Him that sat on a cloud, thrust in thy sickle,

and reap for the time is come for thee to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe" (Revelation 14:15). Future certainty which needs attention in the here and now!

Corner of the Field or Centre Stage

There are some Christians who feel the need to be centre stage in the beam of the spotlight of popularity; more given to entertainment than to Biblical enlightenment. Ruth found and enjoyed the provision in the corner of the designated field. She stayed in the field as directed. No arguments, no going off to another field where the harvest looked more plentiful on the far side of the hedgerow. Ruth gleaned handfuls of purpose; she stayed in the right place at the right time. Perhaps it would be best for us to do the same today.

Frank Rowley is an Executive Council member of the Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries. He serves as one of our administrators. frankrowley@hotmail.co.uk



PRAISE and PRAYER Bulletin

from Richard Cook

Chaplain to Manchester and the North West

It has been said that I am known as "The Flying Vicar" or even "The Mad Chaplain" little old me? Flying? Yes, Mad? Probably, but the pace has certainly been frantic, if not chaotic at times; but to fly for Christ, and be able to watch God's hand in these last few months has been a deep privilege. As autumn comes it still is busy, no time to even prune my feathers.

"At Your Age" or "Oh I couldn't do that" are words usually said to me when they hear of some of the things I have done. But why so? Please remember the age of some of the men and women in Scripture used mightily by God. Let their testimony be your guide. God will equip and strengthen you when he uses you.

Richard Cook is a member of FEM and serves as Railway Chaplain for Manchester and the Northwest of the United Kingdom. Richard.Cook@railwaychaplain.net



"The faith of Christ offers no buttons to push for quick service. The new order must wait the Lord's own time, and that is too much for the man in a hurry. He just gives up and becomes interested in something else."

A. W. Tozer

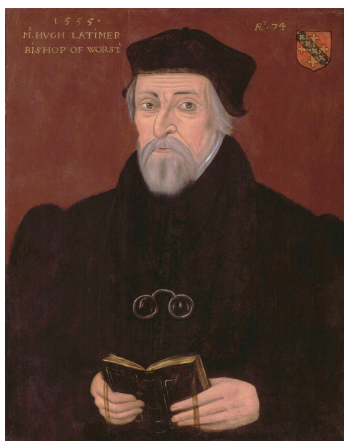
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Bishop Hugh Latimer by Colin Ryan

The time in to which Latimer was born was vastly different to the England of today, no more so than within the Church that held so much power over everything that happened in private and public life. The Church was the Roman Catholic Church and it held sway with a strong vice-like grip willing to use the Law and military force to impose its will.

Superstition was its main teaching and through it the church was able to gain vast wealth and large tracts of land. Ordinary people were expected to give money and other gifts to relics and the altars of the man made 'saints'. The following will help to show just how this worked out. In one year the offering at Canterbury Cathedral was £3.12, the same year the offering at the altar of the Virgin Mary was £63.27 but the offering at the Shrine of Thomas a' Becket was £832.62. The latter two offerings went to the church, not to the Cathedral.

In the Somerset / Wiltshire area that was so well known to Hugh Latimer, the Church also had its money making idols. At Maiden Bradley Priory you could make an offering before the Smock that the Virgin wore, or the casket that contained part of the bread used at the original Lord's Supper, or if you had some money left over you could place it upon a piece of the stone manger in which our Lord Jesus was laid at Bethlehem. At Burton Priory you could hire the red silk girdle of the Virgin Mary to make sure your wife was kept safe in childbirth, or at Farley Abbey you could, for a fee, get the same protection from the white girdle that belonged to Mary Magdalene. A New



Testament would cost you a whole year's wage, but if you did buy one you would be considered a heretic and thrown into prison.

In to this world Hugh Latimer was born in about 1485, he lived through the reigns of Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI and the beginning of the reign of Queen Mary.

His life was both full and

exciting, it would make a wonderful film, but modern man does not want to know the truth about days gone by. Latimer became, at just 24, a Fellow of Cambridge University, then a Royal Chaplain, and later a Bishop, he was twice arrested for preaching Bible Truth; once spending the best part of a year in the Tower of London. He was banned by the Bishop of Bristol from preaching in that City, even though as a Royal Chaplain he had the right to do so. He also helped to write the Thirty-Nine Articles of the Church of England.

Here is something that will upset what you read in modern books. The first time he was arrested, his release was brought about by the intervention of Queen Anne Boleyn. She was one of the few who owned her own Bible and she would often get Latimer, when he was in London, to come and instruct her in the Bible, as she did with Latimer's great friend Bishop Thomas Cranmer. Latimer was minister at West Kingston for two spells, for a total of twelve years, years that he greatly loved.

When Queen Mary came to the throne, she set out, in a matter of days, to restore the Roman Catholic Church to the centre on English life. She had Bishops Latimer, Cranmer, Ridley and Bradford thrown in the Tower, even though Cranmer was at the time

Archbishop of Canterbury. For a year these four men suffered greatly for their faith, being tortured, starved and denied any warmth in winter. They steadfastly refused to believe anything that could not be proved from the Bible and refused to accept the Pope as supreme ruler of all lands and kingdoms, including England.

After a year Latimer and Ridley were sent to Oxford to be burnt at the stake. No public trial, no chance to put their case forward. They went to the stake

quite joyfully ready to meet their Saviour in glory. To make sure they died painfully, and as a warning to the vast crowd that gathered, a barrel of gun power was tied across each of their chests. Both men died with the Name of Christ on their lips and a prayer that their deaths would be a witness to the Truth, and that true religion would return to England. Which it did as God answered and honoured the prayers of the 355 people that Queen Mary had burnt at the stake.

Colin Ryan is a member of the Executive Council of FEM



Don't Dismiss Biblical Prophecy.

by Richard Hardy

"The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap" (Isaiah 17:1).

The ruin of Damascus

Damascus was an important trade route in Biblical times. In the news now we read, and hear of air strikes and civil war in Syria. A third of the Bible is prophecy. If we neglect the prophetic word, in my opinion, we are in danger. To have an understanding of Biblical prophecy is important for the following reasons:

1. You will see events unfolding in the world. This will make you further aware of God's holy word. It will strengthen your relationship with God. He has told us things for our benefit, so that we would not be ignorant to the facts. God has foretold in advance some of the

secret things. Events are unfolding as we near the end of the age. You will know certain things; events will not overtake you, and to a certain extent will not surprise you. If you love God and His word then you will love prophecy.

2. You can explain to others in your witness. You will have some answers to people's questions. People can see the wickedness and its increase. They read and hear about world events. In Isaiah 17, we read the prophetic word regarding Damascus . Damascus has never been destroyed. One day it will because it says so in God's word. Maybe we are seeing the start of this now?

3. If you neglect the prophetic word you will not understand the position and God's prophetic plan for Israel . We are

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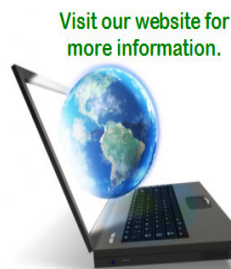
seeing this now with churches boycotting Israeli goods. Genesis 12:1-3 "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee." The God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. With a heavy heart I must say many churches have forgotten this, and the need to bless Israel. Also rife in the churches is replacement theology, also

known as supersessionism, whereby they teach that the church has replaced Israel in God's prophetic plan and blessing. This is a lie from the pit. God still has a plan and purpose for His people. Israel and the Jewish people are still very much in God's plan and loved by Him, but still needing to seek Him in true belief and repentance.

Richard Hardy is pastor of Marshside Christian Fellowship, Southport. He is a member of the Executive Council of FEM and serves as its Chairman. www.marshsidechristianfellowship.co.uk



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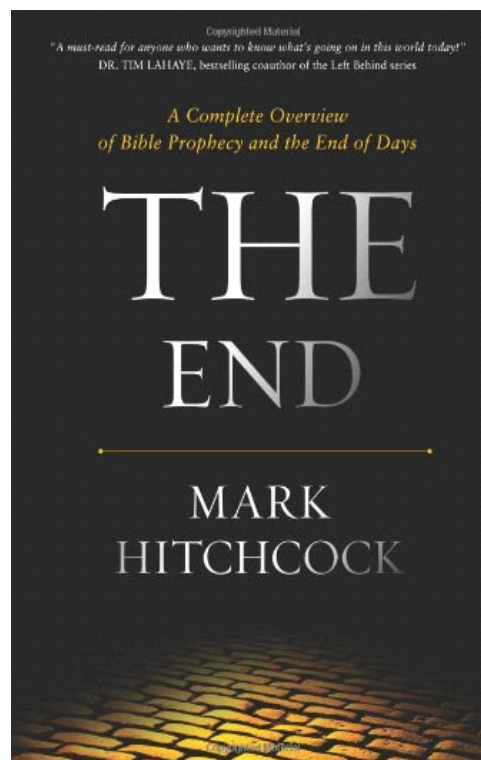
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